The primary purpose of this course is to carefully study the Gita in its entirety. Additional readings on the Gita will discuss its reception in the Western world, and examine the background and orientations of some of its principal modern Hindu commentators. Consequently, we should gain some sense of the liberties taken by exegetes in the utilization of this very important text for the promotion of their various philosophical or social, etc, points of view.

**Course requirements:** All assigned reading. Students are expected to read the entire chapter assigned for each particular week, along with both commentaries and be prepared to discuss these in class. A one page discussion paper is due each week for each Gita chapter responding to a given question on that chapter reflecting a thorough reading of the material (late papers will be penalized). A mid-term quiz (20% of the total grade), final cumulative quiz (40%), and term paper (8-10 pgs, 30%) due the last day of class. In addition to this, students will be assigned class presentations on the secondary reading, and their attendance record, response papers and overall performance in class will factor into the remaining 10% of the grade. **No make-ups for missed exams will be given without valid medical proof or a signed letter from a student dean.**

The written exams will consist of short answer questions testing the students’ mastery over the information covered in the course, as well as mini-essay questions testing their insights and more in-depth understanding of the material. Essential Sanskrit terms will also be on the exams. The final paper gives students an opportunity to probe and research in more detail any particular aspect of ‘Hinduism’ connected or connectable to the Gita that has captured their interest.

**Grading:**
A = 100-90 B+ = 89-87; B = 86-80; C+ = 79-77; C = 76-70; D = 69-65; F = 64 and below. Please note that outstanding class participation can make all the difference between grades.

**Required Course Books:**
Sakai, Van Buiten, 39-69 *The Bhagavad Gita in the Mahabharata*. Chicago: University of
Tue Jan 20th: Introduction

Thur Jan 22nd: Mahabharata
Readings:
Mahabharata, 1-3.

Tue Jan 27th: Mahabharata
Readings:
Mahabharata, 4-6.

Thur Jan 29th: Mahabharata
Readings: Mahabharata, 7-9.

Tue Feb 3rd Gita Mahabharata
Readings: Mahabharata, 10-12.

Thur Feb 5th: Mahabharata

Tue Feb 10th: Mahabharata
Readings: Mahabharata, 16-18.

Thur Feb 12th
Readings:

Tue Feb 17th: Gita, Chapter 1.
Readings: Van Buitenen, 39-69

Thur Feb 19th: Gita, Chapter 2.

Tue Feb 24th: Gita, Chapter 2 (cont).
Thur Feb 26th: Gita, Chapter 3

Tues March 3rd: Gita, Chapter 4.

Thur March 5th: Gita, Chapter 5.
Readings: Sharpe, Chap V: “Renaissance, Radicalism and Theosophy.” pp. 67-102

Tues March 10th: Gita, Chapter 6.
Readings: Chap VI: “Gandhi’s Gita.” pp. 103-123.

Thur March 12th: Mid-Term QUIZ.

Tue March 17th & Thur March 19th: Spring Break

Tue March 24th: Gita, Chapter 7

Thur March 26th: Gita, Chapter 8

Tues March 31st: Gita, Chapter 9

Thur April 2nd: Gita, Chapter 10-11

Tues April 7th: Gita, Chapter 12
Readings: Davis, Chap 2 “Krishna and His Gita in Medieval India.”

Thur April 9th: Gita, Chapter 13
Readings: Davis, Chap 3 “Passages from India.”

Tues April 14th: Gita, Chapter 14
Readings: Davis, Chap 4 “Krishna, The Gita and the Indian Nation.”

Thur April 16th: Gita, Chapter 15
Readings: Davis, Chap 5 “Modern Gita Translations.”
Tues April 21st: Gita, Chapter 16  
*Readings*: Davis, Chap 6 “The Bhagavad Gita in Great Time.”

Thur April 23rd: Gita, Chapters 17 & 18.1-49  
*Readings*: To be determined

Tues April 28th: Gita, Chapter 18 (cont)  
*Readings*: To be determined

Thur April 30th:
**Final Quiz; All Papers Due**